



USING STATISTICS TO IMPROVE HEALTH Influenza Campaign Success

by Willie Mae Howard

Traditionally Service Planning Area (SPA) 6 has significantly lower influenza (flu) vaccination rates per capita than any other SPA in Los Angeles County. This SPA's population of 373,997 African Americans, and 521,137 Hispanics, had a flu vaccine count at 1,328 in 1999, and 1,993 in 2000.

According to Belinda Towns, M.D., M.P.H. Area Health Officer of SPA 6, "African Americans have had the lowest incidence of receiving the flu shot than any other race or ethnic group. They are also at least twice as likely to be hospitalized for flu related illnesses, and to die from the disease."

Spurred on by these statistics, Dr. Towns was able to justify the need for additional vaccinations and increased efforts to vaccinate residents. The 2001 Influenza Campaign resulted in an impressive 121% increase in vaccinations to SPA 6 residents.

"As health care providers, we recognize the importance of using statistics when making decisions necessary to inform and invigorate the health of our patients and clients," says Dr. Towns. "As the Area Health Officer, I promise to keep the community informed and up-to-date on issues relevant to the health and safety of SPA 6."

Contributing to the success of this past winter's campaign were organizations with large numbers of African American members such as churches and senior centers. SPA 6 staff made site visits and encouraged them to become community sites where flu shots could be administered.

The *Senior Peer Immunization Program* was developed to reach out to African American seniors and increase their awareness about the influenza virus.

The coordinated effort spearheaded by PHN Lottie Perkins enabled SPA 6 staff to administer 4,409 flu shots compared to the previous year's total of 1,993. The 2001 campaign far exceeded anticipated goals, said Dr. Towns.

The information and results above are just one example of the ways statistics are used to develop and reinforce objectives by the AHO and staff. Statistics are invaluable when making informed decisions relevant to the health and safety of the community.

We hope the information provided will give you a point of reference when evaluating your needs and services. SPA 6 is available to assist you with statistical information in areas affecting residents of the South, Southwest and Southeast communities.

GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY BUSINESSES OR ORGANIZATIONS

by Willie Mae Howard

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issues over 60,000 grants per year. Information on any federal grant can be obtained by visiting the regional office of the department offering the grant or by visiting their web sites.

The following web sites offer information on available grants:

www.FirstGov.gov - Official web site for searching U.S. Government - Benefits & Grants.

www.CFDA.gov - The Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance provides access to a database of all federal programs available to state and local governments.

www.HRSA.gov - The Health Resources and Services Administration directs programs and administers funding aimed at improving the nation's health by expanding access to comprehensive, quality health care.

www.EPA.gov - The Environmental Protection Agency directs programs and administers grants directly affecting communities.

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Grants

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Who Has Grants Available

The Federal Highway Administration (FHA)

Applications for funding through Cal-Trans will be submitted through this agency. Programs funded under these grants should be designed to:

- Enhance transportation relationships (e.g. with the MTA)
- Develop recreational trails and bicycle paths

The **FHA** also funds programs with an urbanized format. Projects are funded by a Discretionary Bus Capitol Program and administers a flexible fund program used in transit projects, e.g.:

- Congestion mitigation
- Surface transportation programs
- Job Access Programs - supplements local bus services
- Programs that provide transportation to health facilities

The Southern California Association of Governments (www.scag.org) has discretionary funding for community planning and redevelopment projects.

President George Bush initiated the *'No Child Left Behind'* initiative. Some of the programs or activities funded under this act include after school programs and technology resources.

HRSA held a conference on 4/17/02. Discussions included information on the substantial funds available for HIV/AIDS clinic programs.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). Over the years, it has been a challenge for government to get cities and counties to spend their CDBG funds. To access CDBG funding organizations should work with their City Hall, to have a say in how CDBG funds are allocated.

The (Department of Labor) Employee Training Act, came out of the Workforce Act of 1998. Formula Funding is provided to enhance training activities. This is a competitive grant program. Another purpose of this Act is to prevent the need to bring foreign workers into the U.S. and provide training funds to workers here. Apply to the Department of Labor for these grants and to local Workforce Investment Boards. Solicitation for these grants are continuous and the grants are open-ended.

The U.S. Department of Commerce has grants to assist business activities pay for their non- profit and/or municipal governments. Grants from this agency are earmarked for stimulating business. Other purposes include:

- Community building
- Providing technical assistance
- Interest in stimulating jobs and incomes
- Developing of public facilities

The Grant Application Process

Every grant application package has instructions. Follow these instructions carefully; it may help to read and re-read for clarity. When considering which grant to file an application for, be realistic on what it is you want. You may also want to visit the agency's regional office for background information.

When you prepare your application package, only submit things that are required. If you decide you need assistance, consider hiring a grant writer. Make certain you, as well as the writer, understand the requirements. Also know and use all available resources; ask for examples of quality applications and for the name of any available workshops.

When applying for grants, keep in mind that the applications most likely to get funded include those focusing on community and HHS working together. Collaboration/ togetherness is the way of the future. In fact, several clinics have mobile trailer health centers made possible through funds from HHS.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Belinda Towns, SPA 6 Area Health Officer, or Willie Mae Howard at (323) 846-4139.

Snap Shots :

Current Projects and Collaborations in Development

SPA 6 Health Priorities for 2002

The Health/Mental Health committee of the SPA 6 Children's Planning Council reviewed over 80 health indicators from the L.A. Health Survey and other sources to identify the top four health priorities for the current year. The indicators were evaluated based on five criteria:

- The capacity to communicate a significant message of health improvement to the public
- Creating or improving important partnerships within the community
- "Proxy power" or ability to impact more than one problem (i.e. decreasing sexual activity among youth will, by proxy, also decrease sexually transmitted diseases among youth)
- Availability of relevant data
- The collective ability of the group to make a significant impact on the indicator

The health priorities in SPA 6 for 2002 are:

- Promoting healthy teen sexuality
- Improving access to medical insurance and access to a regular source of health care
- Increasing access to and use of prenatal care
- Increasing physical activity among children.

The Area Health Office is working with the Health and Mental Health Committee & SPA 6 to develop strategies and select projects for each health priority.

Come and participate:	The Health/Mental Health Committee
Date:	June 19, 2002
Time:	11:00a.m. - 12:30p.m.
Place:	SPA 6 - Area Health Office
	Hubert Humphrey
	5850 South Main Street - Room 2245

New TB Clinic AT HHH-COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER

Plans are underway to construct a Tuberculosis/STD Clinic at Hubert H. Humphrey CHC. Project completion date is set for April '03.

SOUTH SPA HEALTH VISION STATEMENT

Individuals working together in families, organizations, and businesses to increase the length of healthy life for all residents of South SPA 6

SOUTH SPA COMMUNITY PLEDGE

I pledge to promote the health of our community by keeping a watchful eye on my own health, cherishing the health of my family, and reminding my friends and neighbors to practice healthy habits.

I pledge to affirm and protect the innocence of our youth, the success of our families, and the wisdom of our seniors.

South SPA Health Team

Area Health Officer:	A. Belinda Towns, MD, MPH
Area Medical Director:	Maxine Liggins, MD
Area Nursing Director:	Martina Travis, RN
Area Director of Operations:	Willie Mae Howard, MPA, BS Educ.
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The South Quarterly Chronicle is a quarterly publication of the South Service Planning Area (SPA 6), providing updates on projects, outreach and health and safety issues relevant to the community. Please forward comments, suggestions or address changes to the Editor at the address below or contact us at:

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www.lapublichealth.org/spa6/



South Service Planning Area (SPA 6)

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Public Health Mission:

To safeguard and improve the health of all Los Angeles County Residents.